



State Representative

John McCoy

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Committees:

Economic Development,
Agriculture and Trade;
Commerce and Labor;
Select Committee on
Hood Canal – Vice Chair

**Washington State
House of Representatives**

A report to the 38th District



State Representative

Mike Sells

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Committees: Housing,
Transportation,
Higher Education – Vice Chair

Dear Neighbor,

Over the past year, we've heard from citizens living in Everett, Marysville and Tulalip. We've heard about what's working in our communities and what needs to be improved. We've been listening.

As we enter the 2006 Legislative Session, our goal is to work as a team to insure that the voice of the 38th District is heard loud and clear in Olympia. In this newsletter, you'll find updates on the issues you've told us matter to you: Transportation, Education, Jobs, and Affordable Housing.

Thank you for taking the time to stay informed. Please feel free to call or write to us to share your thoughts and ideas.

We're truly honored to be representing you.

Sincerely,

John McCoy

Mike Sells



Toll-free Legislative Hotline:
800-562-600

TDD (for hearing impaired):
800-635-9993

Transportation: Keeping people safe, moving goods and services

Our local economy is steadily improving, but our transportation infrastructure has been lagging behind for years. The economy won't continue to grow if our roads can't safely accommodate more traffic. During the last legislative session, we worked to insure that transportation projects in Everett, Marysville and Tulalip were included in the budget. Here are some of the major projects being funded in our community:

- Interstate 5 / 41st Street interchange improvement.
- Interstate 5 / 116th Street interchange design.
- Snohomish Riverfront rail redevelopment.
- State Routes 11, 169, 410, 520, 525, and 900 roadside-safety improvements.
- East Marine View Drive widening
- East Everett Avenue crossing.
- 41st Street / Riverfront Parkway (phase 2).
- Bridges seismic retrofit.

Education: Meeting student needs at every level

It's our duty to provide quality education opportunities for everyone in Washington State. We need to support our students along every step of their educational path — It's good for our kids and good for the future of our state.

Early Learning

Thirty percent of children are behind the day they start kindergarten; many never catch up. We can't expect a child to reach their full potential if we are not providing a stable foundation for their education. Last session, we passed the Early Learning Act (House Bill 1152), which creates:

- voluntary quality ratings for pre-schools and child care;
- a pilot program to reward better education and training with a higher pay;

- training standards and assistance; and
- a governor's council to coordinate all early learning in the state.

This session, we'll be working to make sure every child is ready to learn when they enter kindergarten.

K-12

This year's 10th graders will be required to pass the rigorous Washington Assessment of Student Learning (WASL) in order to receive a

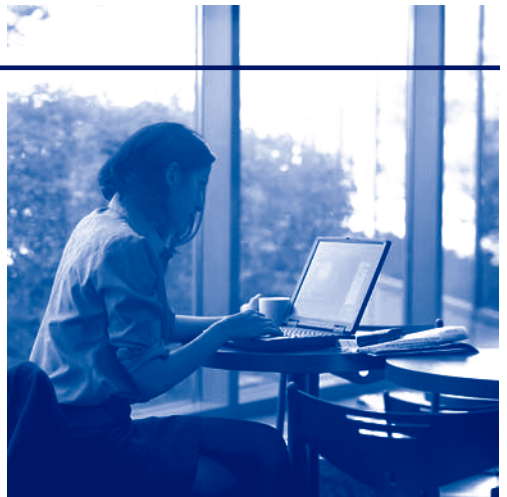
high school diploma. Although our schools are making great progress, last spring only 42 percent of sophomores statewide earned the required scores in reading, writing and math. We need to get all of our students to graduation day, and with the current dropout rate at 33 percent, we have a long way to go.



Higher Education

It's been nearly 40 years since a new college was built in Washington State. Our community is one of the fastest growing areas in the region, but in order to produce a viable workforce we need be able to prepare our citizens for competitive careers.

We're working hard to increase college-access in Snohomish County. During last year's session, we secured \$25 million in the Capital Budget for projects at Everett Community College so that we could deliver a quality education to more of our citizens. This session, we will ask for additional partnerships between our community colleges and four-year schools. And we will continue to press our colleagues for support in bringing a new four-year college to Snohomish County.



Jobs and Energy: Creating more work opportunities in our state

In our region and in other counties across the state, working families are struggling to make ends meet. There are citizens that want to work, but can't find jobs to pay the bills. Meanwhile, valuable high-tech and construction jobs have been lost to offshoring.

Last session, we supported a measure to strengthen apprenticeship programs so that more workers could take advantage of on-the-job training. We also blasted offshoring practices, regulating which public contracts can go to foreign companies.

To sustain a healthy economy, we need to keep looking for ways to expand our local job market. Establishing a firm foothold in the alternative-fuels industry is one way that we can create new jobs while gaining independence from the big oil companies.

We believe Washington can lead the nation in the alternative-fuels industry, creating opportunities for our farmers, jobs for our workers, and a clean, domestic fuel supply for all of us. This session, we will support essential infrastructure for the biofuels industry and help farmers grow crops that can be turned into fuel.

Affordable Housing

Our citizens can't succeed in the workplace and our students can't excel in school if they don't have a place to call home first.

The great housing market that has been fueling much of our economic recovery has also had an unintended negative consequence: many lower-income people are finding it increasingly difficult to find affordable housing.

Last session we increased funding to the Housing Trust Fund by \$20 million in order to help build more low-income homes. We will take another look in 2006 and determine if there are more steps we can take to assure homeowners aren't priced out of their homes and renters have decent, affordable choices.



What do you think?

We'd like to hear your opinions on a few key issues. Please take the time to fill out this brief survey.

1) Would you support altering the requirements of the WASL to insure that more students graduate from high school?


	Voter 1	Voter 2
Yes	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
No	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

2) Should we build a four-year college in Snohomish County?

	Voter 1	Voter 2
Yes	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
No	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

3) Would you like to see the biofuels industry expand in Washington State?

	Voter 1	Voter 2
Yes	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
No	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

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House of Representatives** **A report to the 38th District**

Comments: _____

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